

have less training. To continue to improve the quality of education for all Americans, we should raise the standards in our schools. We need the administration to step forward on Leave No Child Behind, and do it by helping to fund the program mandated for schools all over America. Not to take care of unfunded mandates is wrong; the administration should fund those mandates.

Our Nation's efforts to recover from September 11 remind us that we become a stronger America by working together. So we must join together and continue fighting to make sure all Americans enjoy equal opportunities for justice, quality education, and economic prosperity.

In 2003, it is not enough to quote Dr. Martin Luther King, or to say the right thing, or avoid saying the wrong thing. Actions speak louder than words, even words as powerful as Dr. King's. We remember him as an articulate speaker. It was his actions, his nonviolent actions of organizing, educating, motivating, and demonstrating, that achieved results. If we are truly to honor Dr. King, and, more importantly, if we are fully motivated to improve race relations in our great country, if we want America to live up to its democratic ideals and all our people to have equal opportunity, freedom, justice, prosperity, and peace, we must pass civil rights legislation and fund programs that help level the playing field and appoint judges whose records show a commitment to tolerance and fairness.

The record of the Democratic Party is one we can be proud of. It shows a longstanding commitment to civil rights, to fairness. Democrats recognize we must take additional steps to advance civil rights for all Americans. That is why we Democrats in the Senate have a package of civil rights, known as Equal Rights and Equal Dignity for Americans. Our comprehensive legislation includes measures to expand hate crimes protections. Let the Republicans come forward and stop barring us from passing that. We have legislation to strengthen enforcement of existing civil rights laws. Let them move across the aisle and help.

We must support legislation giving legal representation to indigent Americans. We must stop racial profiling. That is what our legislation does. It addresses pay inequities between men and women, protecting individuals against discrimination; it prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation; and our legislation prohibits military and civilian personnel from collecting information about U.S. citizens. We must fully fund election reforms that we passed last year. This is an agenda that is important, it is good, and it should pass.

We ask the Republicans to step forward and help repudiate, condemn, and oppose something as racially motivated, obviously, as that reported in Time magazine, the President's rein-

statement of something that his father stopped because it was wrong—laying a wreath at the Confederate Memorial. It is wrong. We need to speak out against it because it is wrong.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator EDWARDS is here and has an amendment to offer. We told the majority leader on Friday we would be here at 10:30 to offer the amendment. Senator EDWARDS will not offer the amendment until we have someone who is here from the other side, but he is going to start talking about his amendment. We hope that is OK with everyone.

What is the business now before the Senate?

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.J. Res. 2, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

AMENDMENT NO. 67

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, this morning I will be offering an amendment, together with Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator JEFFORDS, Senator CLINTON, and Senator REID, all of whom have worked very hard on this amendment.

This amendment is about doing a very simple thing: it is about keeping our air clean so that kids won't have asthma attacks and so seniors won't have heart attacks and so Americans won't lose their lives before their time. For months the administration has talked about massive changes in clean air protections and for months Senators on both sides of the aisle have said to the administration: Before you go through with these changes, would you please tell us in detail how these changes are going to affect our families? In other words, would you please look before you leap?

We have been asking that question for months, and for months the administration has refused to answer. On November 22, they went ahead with their

massive changes without telling us how it was going to affect the health of the American people.

I believe the administration does not want to share these facts because they are afraid of what the facts will show. They are afraid people will see what their rule changes will do. When you study these rules, when you listen to the experts, you will see that they will make our air dirtier. These rules will add more soot to our cities and more smog to our national parks. At the end of the day, these rules will allow more kids to get asthma attacks, more seniors to have heart problems which land them in the emergency room, and more people will lose their lives prematurely.

This amendment is a very modest response to these proposed changes. It does not block the rules forever. It does not put them off for years. It just says let's put these rules off for about 6 months and use that time to determine how these changes will affect human health, how they will affect kids with asthma, senior citizens with cardio-respiratory problems. It seems to be a perfectly reasonable thing to do. I hope my colleagues will support the amendment.

We are saying let's get a study from the nonpartisan, completely respected National Academy of Sciences. That is all we are talking about: 6-month delay to look at these changes to see, before they go into effect, what effect they will have on the health of the American people.

The science of pollution is completely clear. Pollution causes heart and lung problems. It aggravates asthma. It causes the smog that ruins the view in our Nation's parks. It causes premature deaths.

According to Abt Associates, a nonpartisan research group, just 51 powerplants are responsible for more than 5,500 deaths every year, for over 106,000 asthma attacks, and for costs to our economy of between \$31 billion and \$49 billion. That is only 51 powerplants. If you did the same study of other industries, the numbers would go up dramatically.

North Carolina has some of the worst pollution in the country. According to Dr. Clay Ballantine, a physician in Asheville in western North Carolina, just living and breathing in western North Carolina costs 1 to 3 years off the average life of a person. The UNC School of Public Health, found that in many of our counties 3 in 10 kids have asthma, which is three times the national average.

Just walking in the Great Smoky Mountains is as bad for your lungs as breathing in many big cities. When the head of the EPA, Christie Todd Whitman, visited the Great Smokies last Fourth of July, she could barely see 15 miles at a place where you used to be able to see 75 to 100 miles. So clean air is a huge priority. It is important for our kids, for seniors, and for our parks.

This administration has made radical changes in the regulations under the